

## FELLOWS BEGS FROM TWEED.

AND THE KING OF BOSS BOODLERS GAVE  
HIM A CHECK FOR \$523.NOT A LOAN, BUT PART PAYMENT  
FOR "VALUABLE SERVICES."

Two Begging Letters Written by Fellows  
to Tweed the Day After the Jury Dis-  
agreed Which Tried Tweed for Plunder-  
ing the City—"I Have Not Received  
Anything from the Gentlemen Referred  
to and Am Badly Fixed," Says John R.  
in His Appeal for "Recognition"—How  
Can Mayor Hewitt Sugar-Coat This  
Little Transaction of His Protege?

[From To-Day's New York Times.]  
The originals of the two significant and interest-  
ing letters which follow are in the possession of  
the editor of the Times. They were written by  
Col. John R. Fellows to William M. Tweed the  
day after the disagreement of the jury which had  
been trying the boss for plundering the city, when,  
if ever, he must have felt grateful to whomever,  
no matter how little, had helped him to escape  
from the righteous consequences of his crimes:

Supreme Court,  
[Coat of Arms].  
State of New York.

YORK, Feb'y 1, 1878.  
DEAR SIR: I am sorry to have to avail myself  
of your generous offer of yesterday, but I have not  
received anything from the Gentlemen referred to,  
and I am situated as follows: I have \$223.00 to pay  
to-day, and I have \$400 to do it with. As part is  
for rent and the rest a note in bank, I am badly  
fixed. If you can send me to-day, I can return it as  
soon as I can see those Gentlemen, which will be  
early next week.

Yours most truly,  
J. R. FELLOWS.

Lengthwise of the note, in the upper left corner,  
is written, in the handwriting of S. Foster Dewey,  
William M. Tweed's private secretary:

"Gave Fellows ch'k for \$523. Feb'y 1,  
1878."

On the back of the note, as it was filed away,  
was written by William M. Tweed, in his crabbed  
hand:

J. R. FELLOWS, 1 February, 1878.

Supreme Court,  
[Coat of Arms].  
State of New York.

NEW YORK, Feb'y 1st, 1878.

MY DEAR SIR:  
You will pardon me if I again send a messenger,  
as 3 o'clock is rapidly approaching.

As Mr. Dewey may have told you will excuse  
this seeming persistence I am sure.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. FELLOWS.

Lengthwise of the note in the upper left-hand  
corner is written by Foster Dewey:

"Gave ch'k for \$523. Feb'y 1, 1878."

It is upon those letters and the bill for the  
messenger who carried these letters to the  
boss, that the great chief of the Democracy,  
whom the Times had hurled from his high estate,  
and when he peruses their contents to-day singular  
and humiliating memories must arise in his  
mind. He had never since felt inclined to repay  
the "loan" which Tweed made him—not even by  
installment. If it was a loan Tweed's estate has  
just claim upon him for the money, from which he  
can only escape by pleading the statute of limita-  
tions.

But it was not a loan. It was, in all probability,  
a partial payment to Col. Fellows by Tweed for  
valuable services that had been rendered at the  
most critical time in his existence—services which  
the public office held by Col. Fellows up to Jan. 1,  
1878, had given him remarkable ability to render.

For the three years preceding Jan. 1, 1878, Col.  
John R. Fellows had been an Assistant District-  
Attorney of the city and county of New York.  
Samuel R. Garvin being District-Attorney. Dur-  
ing that period the Times made the disclosures  
which caused the fall of the Tweed ring, and the  
force of public indignation, as represented by the  
Committee of Seventy and its counsel, had made  
the District-Attorney's Office assist in the finding  
of indictments against Tweed and other members  
of the ring by the Grand Jury.

Col. Fellows, no matter how greatly against his  
will, had to assist in the preparation of these in-  
dictments, and the counsel of the Committee of  
Seventy, no matter how greatly against their will,  
had to allow him to become familiar with the de-  
tails of the case which they had built up against  
the thieves. Possessing this knowledge—irvaluable  
to Tweed—Col. Fellows went out of office before  
the finding of the indictments and the begin-  
ning of Tweed's trial, which occurred in the  
Court of Oyer and Terminer, Judge Noah Davis  
presiding, Jan. 7, 1878. Benjamin K. Phelps was  
then the District-Attorney. Associated with him  
in the prosecution were Lyman Tremaine and  
Wheeler H. Peckham, and Tweed's acknowledged  
and visible counsel were John Graham, David  
Dudley Field, William Fullerton, John Burrill and  
William O. Bartlett, the principal leader writer of  
the Sun.

The great danger feared by the prosecution was  
the corruption of the jury, which the loose law and  
the looser administration of that day made easy.  
The Sheriff, Matthew Brennan, and the Commis-  
sioner of Jurors were friends of Tweed and did  
everything that they dared to do to him. On the eve-  
ning of Jan. 30 Judge Davis charged the jury in the  
presence of a crowd which filled the court-room to  
its utmost capacity. The newspapers of the next  
day gave the names of many of those who were  
present, and in them may be found this interesting  
collocation: "Billy" Moloney, "Fatty" Walsh,  
Mark Laugan, Jack Bourke, "Jimmy" Dunphy  
and Col. John R. Fellows. How many times since  
has the Colonel sat "check by jowl" with  
"Billy" Moloney and "Fatty" Walsh in more  
private places than the Court of Oyer and Ter-  
miner? Was not the grouping ominous of the future?

The jurors being unable to agree, Judge Davis  
discharged them Jan. 31. All respectable citizens  
believed that bribery had taken place, and bribery  
was publicly charged, especially after it was dis-  
covered that only one man had held out for Tweed  
from beginning to end, and that man's antecedents  
and surroundings had been so notorious.

It may well be believed that on the 1st of Feb-  
ruary, 1878, public indignation was at its boiling  
point. Honest men were meeting together and re-  
solving that, in spite of the temporary tri-  
umph of corruption, one more effort should be  
made to convict Tweed, and that it should be  
successful. Col. Fellows had been a high-  
placed servant of the city for the three  
previous years; he knew the corrupt

spots in the machinery of justice, and he was  
bound by every sentiment of honor, as  
well as by the code of morals of the  
legal profession to which he belonged, to aid in  
the movement for conviction. The fact that he  
had gone out of office did not abate him from his  
allegiance to the prosecution. A lawyer can-  
not turn round and do friendly acts for the other  
side because his term of office on one side has ex-  
pired. If he could do no more, Col. Fellows  
might at least have done something toward  
assuring the people that justice should not go  
unavenged; that there would be no dickering  
with the thieves; that no favors should be asked  
of them.

What did he do on that eventful day when Tweed  
was celebrating his escape from punishment with  
his "pals" and good citizens were going about  
gloriously, but determined? He spent the day in  
writing appeal letters to Tweed, pitifully begging  
for money. "I am sorry to have to have to avail  
myself of your generous offer of yesterday."

"Yesterday" was the very day that the jury dis-  
agreed, and that Col. Fellows, side by side with  
"Billy" Moloney, witness the look of triumph  
that came over Tweed's face as Judge Davis gave  
up in despair and told the jurors that they were  
discharged.

It may well be supposed from the words of his  
letter that, knowing that Tweed must be in good  
humor, he seized the auspicious occasion before  
Tweed left the court-room and asked him for  
money. Tweed evidently said "All right." It  
was much; only five hundred or so; and the  
Colonel ventured to remind him of it the next  
morning. Not getting it, at about 2 p. m. he sent  
a messenger, and that appeal was successful.

"As a check for \$523. DEWEY."  
Like Brian de Bala Gubbert in "Ivanhoe,"  
Tweed belonged to the confraternity that did  
naught for naught. When he gave Col. Fellows  
money it was because Col. Fellows had done him  
a service. The letters bear internal evidence that  
the relations of the ex-Assistant District-Attorney  
and the thief against whom he had been forced to  
find an indictment were intimate, friendly and of  
long standing.

At this time, when Col. Fellows is appealing to  
his fellow-citizens to elect him to the District-  
Attorneyship, the most important duty of which  
will be the prosecution of just such thieves as  
Tweed, it would be very proper for him to explain  
just what services he rendered to Tweed before,  
during and after his trial, and just how much  
money Tweed gave him therefor. Col. Fellows  
is making eloquent speeches every night, in  
which he denounces the Times for the same cause  
that he and Tweed and their friends were  
denouncing it in 1878, and it is interesting to  
learn that the gallant Colonel was just as much in  
need of money to pay his common family debts  
then as he has been all the time since. Let him in  
his next speech stop scolding the Times for a few  
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Estates of Ball-Players Going West.  
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England players are rapidly putting their names to  
contracts which will carry them to other sections  
next season. Yesterday morning Walter Burnham  
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he found that Tim Murnan had been there  
just ahead of him and signed the cleaver out-  
right for the Kansas City club, which is being  
managed by Jimmy Manning. In fact, the hard-  
driving center fielder of the Portlands, will also  
be back in the West next summer. He has signed  
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Killed Himself by Slow Strangulation.  
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Impending Trouble Among the Cherokees.  
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stock and household goods, and have sought refuge  
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John Swinton's Boom.  
The Progressive Labor party has made great  
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To-morrow night the torchlight procession will  
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You must not forget that the Messrs. Vogel  
Brothers have greatly enlarged their Eighth  
avenue and Forty-second street store, where  
they now keep everything worn by man or boy.  
Clothing, Hats, Shoes and Furnishings. "

## IT DISMAYS THE BOSSES.

FELLOWS'S INTIMACY SHOWN WITH THE  
BIGGEST ROBBER THAT EVER LIVED.

Wheeler H. Peckham Says that Fellows  
Could Have Rendered the Most Valuable  
Services to Tweed-Nicoll's Election  
Insured by the Revelation—Mayor Hewitt  
Declines to Say Anything About the Case.

Wheeler H. Peckham, who was the principal  
associate of District-Attorney Phelps in  
conducting the prosecutions against the  
Tweed Ring in 1878, said to a reporter of THE  
EVENING WORLD this morning:

"Yes, I have read the letters published in  
the Times to-day, and must acknowledge that  
they show Col. Fellows in an extremely glib  
and suspicious light. Anybody can draw  
that conclusion from them, and unless these  
suspicions can be entirely disproved it will  
be a very serious matter for Fellows."

"Do you think they prove that Col. Fel-  
lows had rendered some valuable service for  
Tweed?"

"The only conclusive inference that the  
letters will support in my opinion is that  
there was a close intimacy between Col. Fellows and a man who,  
as every one else knew, was the biggest ro-  
bber that ever lived. If the people of this  
city want a man for District-Attorney against  
whom such a serious fact as this is  
known, then I am greatly mistaken."

So far as proving that he had  
anything to do with packing the jury  
or bribing officers or jury it is clear that there  
is not evidence to support such a charge, con-  
sidering the letters in the Times, and I never  
at the time heard of any suspicious  
being directed against Col. Fellows in this  
respect."

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## NICOLL CLUBS SPRING UP.

CITIZENS OF ALL PARTIES ORGANIZING IN  
THE GOOD CAUSE.

No Less than Twenty-eight Such Bodies in  
the Twenty-third District Alone—The  
Membership Composed Chiefly of Young  
Democrats and Men Who Voted for Hew-  
itt Last Year—The Room Downtown.

It is evident that the  
Nicoll boom has made  
gigantic advances dur-  
ing the past two days.  
At the Independent  
headquarters this  
morning the faces of  
the workers were an  
air of hopefulness and  
confidence that be-  
speaks the great vic-  
tory that is to be won  
next Tuesday over the  
bosses and the bood-  
lers. In every por-  
tion of the city Inde-  
pendent Nicoll clubs  
are being formed, and  
they are manifesting  
the greatest activity and  
enthusiasm in pushing along the work.  
These are composed both of old and young  
men, Democrats, Republicans and Inde-  
pendents. They manifest no partisan or  
factional spirit in their meetings and own no  
party allegiance, but their heart is in the  
cause, and they are simply organized for the purpose of  
securing pure and honest government for New  
York City.

The number of clubs in the Nineteenth,  
Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second,  
Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Assembly  
districts is very large. Some idea of the  
average number of these organizations can  
be formed, when it is stated that there are  
twenty of these Independent Nicoll clubs in  
the Nineteenth District and twenty-eight in  
the Twenty-third District.

Among the most ardent supporters of these  
organizations are young Democrats, who are  
working heart and soul to rid the party of  
bosses and boodlers. They have joined the  
cause, and are still coming in.  
There is one club in the Twenty-third Dis-  
trict which has a membership of 400, of  
whom 250 are Democrats and 150 Republicans.  
All the Democratic members are men who  
voted for Mr. Hewitt for Mayor a year ago, and  
100 of the 150 Republicans who voted for  
Mr. Hewitt. This is merely an illustration,  
but it can be taken as giving a pretty accurate  
idea of the general situation. They are all  
solid for Nicoll.

The Organization Committee of the Inde-  
pendents have sent out from the Nicoll head-  
quarters an urgent appeal for volunteers to  
work at the polls and act as watchers on elec-  
tion day. All willing to serve in this capacity  
should at once send their names and resi-  
dences to George W. Green, Chairman of  
Organization Committee, 222 Broadway. It  
is said that 1,200 young Democrats and Re-  
publicans have already volunteered for this  
work, but the services of many more will be  
needed in order to render the force thor-  
oughly effective.

That the Nicoll boom in the downtown  
exchange is on the increase is a matter of  
notoriety. Every day prominent brokers  
are coming out openly and strongly in fa-  
vor of the reform candidate. The feeling in  
favor of Nicoll is particularly strong in  
the Stock Exchange, while the old Gov-  
ernment men are coming out openly and strongly  
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